

## REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on September 2, 2003, Applicant wishes to enter the following remarks for the Examiner's consideration. Claims 1-9, 14,15 are pending in the application. Claims 10-13 are allowed. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 14 in response to a phone interview with the Examiner on October 24, 2003. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to reflect the coupling of the feedback signal to the input stage. As discussed in the phone interview, Examiner noted that this change would be sufficient to overcome rejections of claims 1-9, 14, 15. Applicant also notes with appreciation that claims 5-9 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, however the changes to claims 1 and 14 overcome the rejection of claims 5-9 and 14, which depend from claim 1 and claim 14, respectively. In light of this change, Applicant respectfully requests that the finality of the office action be withdrawn and requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9, 14, 15 at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

The applicant also respectfully renews the differences noted in the previous response dated July 30, 2003. In addition, as mentioned during the phone interview with the Examiner on October 24, 2003, Applicant would like to note a further distinction between the Fattaruso reference and the claimed invention. On column 4, lines 47-51 Fattaruso teaches that "The n-channel enhancement type field effect transistors  $M_{13}$  and  $M_{14}$  perform a 'differential to single-ended' conversion, ...". This is a clear statement of the functionality of  $M_{13}$  and  $M_{14}$ , which is in contradiction with Examiner's assertion that  $M_{13}$  and  $M_{14}$  teach the current mirror of the gain stage of claim 1 or teach the third and fourth transistors of the gain stage of claim 3 having

Docket No.: 00-SZ-106  
Application No.: 10/071,013

equivalent currents as recited in the claims. Although additional arguments could be made for the patentability of each of the claims, such arguments are believed unnecessary in view of the above discussion. The undersigned wishes to make it clear that not making such arguments at this time should not be construed as a concession or admission to any statement in the Office Action.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Renee' Michelle Larson', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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